

To: Newsroom Directors and Assignment Editors

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Check out the Ag Billboards!

Farms and farmers give more than food!

The Delaware Department of Agriculture (DDA) with input from the farming and poultry community launched a campaign to make the public more aware that farms provide much more than food, i.e., they contribute to Delaware's overall quality of life.



Through two strategically located billboards along Delaware's resort corridors, people are reminded that open space and bucolic vistas are directly related to farms and the farmers that own and operate them. One is located on U.S. 13 in Bridgeville; and the other is located on Rt. 113 in Milford. The billboards say, "ENJOYING THE VIEW? THANK A DELAWARE FARMER!"

The scenic views like the one depicted in the billboard picture above are provided by Delaware's more than 2,500 farms, more than half of which are family farms that provide a continuity of our rich agricultural and rural heritage that dates back to colonial times like the 325 year old Miller Farm in Frederica that is pictured to the right.

Ed Kee, Delaware Secretary of Agriculture said, "The beautiful views and open space provided by our rural landscapes are important to us and to our wildlife, but we must also remember that a strong viable economy is vital to our quality of



life as well. Farms and farmers are the linchpins of our food and farm system that contributes more than a billion dollars to Delaware's economy. They provide the basic raw materials that are the fuel for an agriculture industry that provides more than 18,000 jobs to Delawareans on farms, in processing plants, in markets, in transportation, and much more."

According to the National Agricultural Statistics Service, in 2007, Delaware farms alone hired 3,223 workers and paid more than \$36 million in wages.

Map of Delaware Cropland

